experience" was recently held in New Delhi in order to bring about more reforms in the Indian Petroleum Industry;

(b) if so, what major recommendations were made by the participants at the seminar; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to protect the intersts of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society by ensuring that beneficial effects reach/given to consumers both quality-wise and price-wise by undertaking reforms in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main aim of organising the seminar was to gain an understanding as to how other countries/international companies have dealt with the restructuring process to maintain their competitive advantage and meet the energy challenges of the future. No specifific recommendations were made at the seminar.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Passports Issued by Passport Offices in Punjab

1010. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by the passport offices in the State of Punjab, passport office-wise; and

(b) the number of applications pending with the passport offices in Punjab for the grant of passports as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The total number of passports issued by Passports Offices in the State of Punjab and passport applications pending with these Passport Offices, are as follows:

Passport Office	Total Number of Passports Issued during the period 1.1.1995 to 24.11.1995	Total Number of Passport Applications Pendings on 24.11.1995
Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh	93,017	11,704
Passport Office, Jalandhar	90,480	17,089

Scheme for development and growth of fruit and vegetable processing

1011. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme in the country particularly in the State of Punjab for the growth and development of fruit and vegetable processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries was set up in July, 1988 with a view to give a thrust to the development of food processing industries in the country. A strong and effective food processing sector plays a significant